

January 19, 1955

Dear Ted:

Sorry we had such an evanescent visit at Washington last month!

Ted, I have a letter from Alan Garen asking about the chances of a fellowship here next year, and I would like to ask your candid advice. Frankly, I would prefer to minimize the size of our group to make it more nearly consistent with our limited space and the time I would like to spend on my own experimental work. On the other hand, it would be stupid and unfair to turn away the fellow who might learn from us what he needs to perfect his training, and can help us likewise. Still, my experience so far with post-doctoral fellows has not been as happy as with graduate students, and I would be particularly unhappy to be fastened with a "perpetual fellow" who will not be competent and ready to move to a more permanent position at the end of his term.

Alan did not state what he would like to work on; at present, we could not possibly branch out into further lines of research, until we have cleaned up the innumerable loose ends we already face. This would be unfortunate in a way, as we might not be able to use the best of the training that he has already had.

I envisage two possibilities about his situation, perhaps more: 1) that Garen does not quite know what he wants to do, and in spite of his present tenure, still wants to remain a fellow, or 2) that he is already a first rate researcher, but wants to broaden his background. In either event, I should want to know quite explicitly why he is not qualified better for his own position rather than another fellowship. Can you help me on this?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg